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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket No.:

MICHAEL A. EPSTEIN

PHA 23,313

Serial No.: 08/994,878

Group Art Unit: 2766

Filed: DECEMBER 19, 1997

Examiner: HO S. SONG

Title: ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE KEYS IN NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231



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AMENDMENT/REPLY TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the Office Communication dated February 12, 2001 and the Office Action dated September 11, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Following the amendment and attached thereto, is a marked up copy of the claims for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A method of administration of private keys for a plurality of users for use to encrypt or decrypt items transmitted via a network, there being for each user a respective set of an ID, user identifying information,